A geographic information system (GIS) is more than just maps. A GIS enables us to visualize information in different ways so that we can recognize patterns or reveal relationships that would not otherwise be apparent, and to see our world from a different perspective.

What can you expect from a career in GIS?

A career in GIS can take on many forms.   Many government entities have a GIS, whether it be a department unto itself, or a division within various departments. In Clermont County, the GIS is dispersed throughout many offices, with the core GIS staff residing as a division of the Community Planning and Development department. The GIS staff maintains the core GIS infrastructure necessary for other departments to use the information. GIS can also be an integral part of many other careers. Engineers, Urban Planners, Surveyors, and employees of utility companies all use GIS in their lines of work.

> Entry level **GIS Technicians** are usually responsible for preparing custom maps, some data maintenance, and limited analysis. A GIS Technician may also be tasked with going out in the field to verify information with a GPS. This field information is then brought back and integrated with the GIS database.

> A **GIS Analyst**'s job is more involved and requires knowledge of database maintenance, higher level analysis, and most likely some computer programming.

> In addition to GIS skills, a **GIS Manager** needs to have budgetary and project management experience, as well as supervisory skills.

Entrance requirements

A four year degree in any of the following can prepare you for a career in GIS:

- o Geography
- o Planning
- o Engineering
- o Business Administration (with specialization in GIS)

Once you have achieved your education and have gained some experience in GIS, it is highly recommended that you apply for **GISP Certification** with the GIS Certification Institute (www.gisci.org). This certification assures that you have met the minimum standards for ethical conduct and professional practice as a GIS Professional.

Helpful links for more information:
 www.esri.com/what-is-gis/index.html
http://gislounge.com/building-a-career-in-gis
www.gjc.org

http://gis.clermontcountyohio.gov
www.gis.com/content/careers-gis
http://giscareers.com
http://geoinfo.sdsu.edu/hightech